

(Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) was joined today by three other Democratic members of Ohio's congressional delegation-U.S. Reps. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Cleveland), Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo), and Dennis Kucinich (D-Cleveland)-in sending a letter to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The letter requests an expansion of the Commission's ongoing audit of federal election assistance funds spent by the Ohio Secretary of State's office.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission is currently engaged in a routine audit of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds spent by Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell. The letter sent by Ryan and the other lawmakers urges the Commission to expand the scope of its probe to cover concerns that were raised by a nonprofit, nonpartisan government watchdog organization, Common Cause Ohio.

Common Cause Ohio sent a letter to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission alleging that federal HAVA dollars may have been misspent and HAVA compliance may be in jeopardy.

The Ohio lawmakers' letter also reiterates concerns first raised in a report released last year by the House Judiciary Committee's minority staff.